

VOL. 5, NO. 3, JULY 2013

the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

It's been a whirlwind trip around the state as we joined staff statewide at the recognition events honoring our Probation and Parole Officers for APPA Probation and Parole Week. I was so gratified to see how many of our stakeholders and community partners joined us. We were able to honor staff members and let them know how much their efforts and dedication are appreciated. We even got a little notice in the press.

Summer is drawing to a close and we are getting ready to swing into high gear as we get closer to fall. Remember when August was still part of summer vacation? Now schools take in earlier and the year just seems to fly by. It feels like it was just springtime, and here we are, well into the new fiscal year, with football season on the horizon. No matter what season we're in, OJJ staff stay busy, at work and on personal time. *"The Scoop"* is full of all the activities that you are engaged in. And of course, it makes me proud. And so pleased to be a part of an agency where people take care of one another, especially those less fortunate, as naturally as breathing. I think you'll enjoy the **Employee Spotlight**, I know it made me really think about the kind of person who chooses to be a part of OJJ.

We are definitely the biggest little agency in state government. OJJ, you rock!

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers

Thanks to everyone throughout the agency for the uplifting P&P Week events hosted at all offices throughout the state. We've just finished with all programs statewide.

*Watch for full coverage of all the P&P recognition programs in the next issue of **The Inside Scoop...of OJJ**.*



Here's just a taste of what's to come.



What you give

It is by making a difference that you make a life. It is by giving of your authentic self that you gain access to life's great richness.

When things are going well, you have many opportunities to make a difference. When difficult problems arise, you have even more opportunities to move the world positively forward.

Today will present you with plenty of meaningful opportunities to make a positive difference. Each of these opportunities is also an opportunity to greatly enrich your life.

If it is self-esteem you seek, here is a way to guarantee it. Observe yourself as you work through the challenges and act to create real value in your world.

All of life longs to hear your unique voice. Be yourself, and do it with passion, effectiveness, creativity and love.

Make the choices that will make a real difference. What you give is what determines how well you truly live.

— Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...

**JJS4 Detrick Massey,
Swanson Center for Youth-Monroe
Group Leader, Redbud Dorm**

Some 19 years ago, Detrick "DeeDee" Massey took a heartbreak and turned it into a huge success. She was told that her new baby girl, born very small with poorly developed legs that had no muscles, would never walk.



Refusing to accept such a dire prognosis, DeeDee found a doctor and therapist at North Monroe Hospital who worked with her and her daughter, K'Deindra, for almost three years, until the little girl could indeed walk.



K'DEINDRA ALEXANDRIA MASSEY

In May of last year, K'Deindra graduated from high school and has started college this fall at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss. – on a full track scholarship.

In between, the former athlete and current coach got her daughter and a lot of other children "on track," so to speak. Once K'Deindra was able to walk, then run, DeeDee took her daughter and another little girl to the National Junior Olympics to compete in track. "After the first time I took them, I started my organization, the Massey Miracle Run, and in 2007 I set up a 501 C-3 non-profit called the S.O.Y. Project – Saving Our Youth," DeeDee said. "The name Massey Miracle Run comes from the fact that it's a miracle that my daughter was able to walk."

DeeDee arrived at OJJ in 2000, directly from serving as an assistant coach at her own alma mater, Wossman High School in Monroe, where she coached track and field. She also had a peewee basketball team at an elementary school. "I wanted to move from coaching to OJJ to work with kids – that's my passion," DeeDee said.

"Detrick Massey is a dedicated employee for SCYM. She is a group leader with the heart of a champion and it shows in all that she does," said Director Vickie Shoecraft. "She operates her unit with a team work philosophy and you can see this in the hours she works, not necessarily in excess but in variety and quality. You may see her working the evening or overnight shift to cover for a staff member on vacation or you could see her on an escorted leave taking one of her youth on an excursion with his family, you just never know where she might be but you know it's wherever the team needs her."

"She's one champion that Swanson Center for Youth is proud to have on its team."

"And then you see her working with the other units, planning tournaments, or fun day activities and patrolling the campus on a 4 wheeler to make sure every event is running like clockwork and all groups get their opportunity to play at each game," Director Shoecraft continued. "And this is just what she does at work for OJJ. In the community, she coaches track, helping young minds and bodies to stay focused on things healthy and positive, that might one day lead to scholarships and higher education. She has a passion for everything she does and she's one champion that Swanson Center for Youth at Monroe is proud to have on its team."

DeeDee's passion is working with kids, and she does that almost exclusively, at work and in her personal time. She wanted to emulate her own mother, Peggy Massey, a single

parent of six and "neighborhood mama" to any child who needed her. "Mama did an excellent job of raising her own six kids, four boys and two girls, and she fed any child in the neighborhood who needed a meal. She never turned anyone away," DeeDee said.

"My mother motivated the kids in our neighborhood to strive for excellence...my goal was to be exactly like her."

"She also motivated the kids in our neighborhood to strive for excellence, and she never missed a football or basketball game – she attended games for all those neighborhood children. My goal was to be exactly like her," DeeDee added.

DeeDee's mother played basketball at Delta High School in Mer Rouge, a tiny village in Morehouse Parish near Bastrop. The family lived in Mer Rouge until DeeDee was ten years old, when they moved to Monroe. DeeDee attended Lincoln Elementary School, Jefferson Junior High School and was a 1992 graduate of Wossman High School, where she played basketball.

Going to college was not an option, DeeDee noted, and she went to college on a full basketball scholarship at Baptist Christian College in Shreveport. She transferred to Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, graduating with a bachelor's degree in physical education. DeeDee is also a certified coach, with an associate degree in physical education from the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, on top of her P.E. degree.

Peggy Massey still lives in Monroe, where she is raising four grandchildren (after the death of one her sons) and sees her other grandkids all the time, DeeDee said. "One grandchild graduated from ULM in the spring, and she is making sure the others follow in his footsteps," DeeDee said.

Two of DeeDee's brothers live close by in Monroe. "They have my back in everything I do," she said. "Anything I may need help with, they step in. I have a huge family. My father, Mack Burks, still lives in Mer Rouge and he has always been a part of my life, even after he and my mother separated. He has 12 boys and two girls – my sister and me. My dad also has my back on everything. That's why I am like I am, having all these brothers and a sister. The bigger the family, the more loving they all are."

"My passion is working with kids."

"My passion is working with kids," DeeDee stressed again. It started with a nephew she raised, then her own child, the children in her neighborhood, and now the youth at Swanson-Monroe. "I serve as a mentor in the community," she said. "Three kids from my unit at Swanson are currently at Grambling, and one is at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. I continue to mentor them now while they are in school."

When not working at Swanson, she is known as Coach DeeDee. As a coach, she set up the nonprofit organization, the S.O.Y. Project (Saving Our Youth) to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children and teens to participate in track and field events and extracurricular activities all throughout the year. "In addition to the athletic events, we also teach good health, fitness and nutrition education, good sportsmanship conduct, and we provide mentoring and counseling services," DeeDee said. She works with the S.O.Y. Project both on her own time and at Swanson, where she coached the track team to its phenomenal success last year.



DeeDee is just back from Greensboro, North Carolina, where the National Junior Olympics for children aged 6 to 18, was held this year. She took eight kids this year, who joined about 8,500 other children from around the country in the AAU Junior Olympic Games, the pinnacle competition held annually by the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union. DeeDee's kids competed in the 1500 meter run, high jump, long jump, 110 hurdle and 80 meter hurdle. "All of the children ran and jumped their best personal record," DeeDee said.

"What fuels my passion is the focus on mentoring and striving for excellence," DeeDee said. "I tell the kids that I have been to the mountaintop - my parents and coaches took me to the mountaintop. Now I'm trying to get my kids to their own mountaintop, by teaching them to strive for more. I teach them the Five Ps – 'Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.' I try to teach my boys this every single day."

"I check in with the kids in my unit even when I'm off," DeeDee said, referring to the LAMOD check-in process. "The staff in the unit respond and check in with me. They let the boys know I'm checking in and out every night. I honestly care about my kids and I try to go above and beyond for them. This is my passion – this is what I do. Sometimes I have to stand up for my unit – if not me, then who else would do that for the kids? Sometimes I have to say what I need for the kids. They really appreciate that – kids admire leaders. Sometimes I'll sit down with the director and talk with her so she knows the need is real and I'm serious," DeeDee continued. "I'll say this is what I'm doing and why I'm doing it."

"My kids motivate me – when I see that my kids need me, that a child knows when I'm gone," she said. "If the kids don't want to excel, I try to get them to a higher level by showing them what they CAN achieve, in and out of the classroom. We are going to work together. I continually interact with my kids."

"My faith motivates me. After the doctors told me my daughter would never walk, I did not accept that," she added. "I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He puts us here for a reason. My mother raised me in the faith at our church, Greater Free Gift Baptist Church in Monroe, with Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr. I believe that no one can tell us what we can or cannot do. We continued to strive, both of us. I worked, the doctor at North Monroe Hospital worked, the therapist Dr. Angela worked. K-Deidra worked and she walked."

"I enjoy taking care of kids...as long as I know they are striving to meet their goals, there's no problem."

"Motivating the kids is what makes me get up and come to work every day," DeeDee said. "That's what wakes me up in the morning. I had four kids from Wossman call last night, because they wanted to go to Grambling to enroll. So this morning, we went, and those four boys enrolled. I just enjoy taking care of kids all over. As long as I know they are striving to meet their goals, there's no problem."

"Coach Charles 'Tank' Smith, inspires me to get up every morning," she continued. "He was a professional football player for the Philadelphia Eagles, and he was my basketball and track coach. Now he helps with my kids. Another one of my coaches at Wossman was Cynthia Stovall, who is now coaching in Texas. If a kid were to miss practice, those two would come and get you out of the bed - they would hunt you down! I learned from them. My kids know that either Coach Massey or Coach Smith is coming to get you. I was given a van to get kids to practice or wherever they need to go. The Lord blessed me with a van, and it's a blessing to be able to go and pick the kids up."

DeeDee is a single mother of two daughters. "I don't like hearing people say that single

parents can't raise children successfully," she said. "A lot of people say a single parent can't do it on their own, but I don't believe that. I'm raising my two daughters, ages 14 and 19. K'Deidra just graduated from high school and she is going to a university."

"My daughter Sheline (right) is a sophomore at Wossman High School. She is on the homecoming court as Miss Sophomore, and she participates in a lot of beauty pageants, and wins. I was raised in the country with no indoor bathrooms, with an 'out house.' I want my kids to have the best of the best, and to be raised the way I was raised. Right now my house and car are paid for, and I won't even turn 40 until next month."



"I really don't have time to do things for myself," DeeDee said. "When I leave Swanson in the evening, I go straight to Wossman High School to coach the kids, then I go home, eat and fall into the bed. I try to prepare myself for the next day - think about what can I do to inspire my kids tomorrow."

"I enjoy living my life for our kids," DeeDee said. "Saving Our Youth is a 501 C3 non-profit organization that I set up with IRS. My motivation is living for kids after being raised the way I was raised. My mother's passion and heart was for kids. She reached out to others, and I wanted to step in the footsteps of my mother. My sister is the same. I named my second daughter Sheline, after my sister. When my sister had a son, I helped her to raise my nephew. I just had to have a son. He is much older than my daughters. He lived with me, and my sister loved it. I'm more of a tomboy, and she is more ladylike. I can throw on tennis shoes and play with the boys; she has to dress up to go to the grocery store. She was not into sports, she likes pageants and she works with my daughter Sheline on that, so we complement each other."

"I feel like God put me in my position," DeeDee added. "That's who actually put me here, in this job. The Lord put me on this earth to do exactly what I'm doing. There's nobody but Him guiding me. When any of my kids call me, I'm up and gone."

"I don't take much time off my job," DeeDee noted. "This year I've already had my time off for the Junior Olympics. Now, everyone knows that this is the time I take off, to go to the Olympics. I couldn't even stay at home when I had surgery. I just can't stay down, I'm like the Energizer Bunny that goes on and on. It's never enough."

DeeDee is on a one-woman mission. Although she never mentioned the OJJ mission, she's busy living it. DeeDee Massey is a living, breathing mission and vision statement.

Agency News

CQIS Policy Updates

The following is a list of policies that were approved in June 2013:

- A.1.8 Emergency Operations Plan 6/11/13
- A.1.18 Shelter/Meals for Employees on Duty During Emergency Situations 6/11/13
- A.2.23 Position Descriptions 6/12/13
- A.2.20 Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program 6/24/13
- C.2.12 Emergency Escorting 6/24/13
- C.2.14 Tool Control Program 6/24/13

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to members of the OJJ family who have recently lost family members. Please keep these staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Bridge City

Administrative Coordinator Shauna Charles recently lost her father, **Mr. Lynn Charles**.

Social Services Counselor 3 Tamara Cotton has lost her **mother, Prophetess Gwendolyn Quarles Cotton**.

Central Office

Family Liaison Donna Bowie's mother, Ms. Rosia Butler, recently passed away.

Lake Charles

Regional Manager Ann Vick has recently lost her **mother, Mrs. Violet Padden**.

Notes from the Family Liaison

Donna Bowie relates, "Recently a co-worker and I 'dined' at McDonald's for lunch. While standing in line a young man came out of nowhere and put his arms around me and smiling, he whispered, "Do you remember me?"



Left, former youth Jacob C. at work at McDonald's.



Right, former Youth Joseph C. and his manager Ms. Dawn.

Caught off guard and taking a good look at the young man, I replied "yes," and whispered in his ear, "you were at Jetson!" Smiling, he said yes. He wanted to thank everyone for what they've done to assist him in getting on track and wanted everyone to know that he is doing well. Both he and his identical twin, Jacob, work at the McDonald's around the corner from central office. Jacob, who resided at both Swanson and Bridge City, smiled and waved from behind the counter. He is the one that prepares your burger, so be nice!"

Donna tells us that Sunday worship services at Bridge City are very moving, and she shares the photo below of youth in prayer and worship.



Sunday worship at Bridge City.

Alexandria Regional Office

We Are Well Trained

PPO3 Lori Mayeux and **PPO1 Mekensie Maxwell** attended a SAVRY Booster training in May, in Lafayette.

Attorney Marston Fowler conducted Sex Offender and Ethics training in May

PPO3 Franklin Parrino and **PPS Donna Desoto** attended a Train the Trainers course conducted by Glyn Hayes in Baton Rouge.

AC3 Cassaundra Conston and **Sharon Graham**, Administrative Assistant 5 for Regional Director Johnny Qualls, attended Expenditure Coding training in June in Baton Rouge.

What's Going On

PPS Donna Desoto did a PSA (Public Service Announcement) to recruit Community Health Advisors (CHA). CHAs are volunteers who go out into the community, spreading the word about the benefits of screening for early detection of cancer.

Donna attended a National Cancer Survivors Prayer Bruch at the Christian Missionary

Baptist Church. This was an opportunity for cancer survivors to share their testimony.

Congratulations

Alexandria OJJ completed our internal audit in July.

Two clients of **PPO2 Mekensie Maxwell** received their GEDs and one other graduated from the Youth Challenge Program, which earned them an early release.

Anniversaries

May

PPO2 Kristen Hebert, 1 year
Transportation Officer Vernell Jewell, 5 years

PPO3 Franklin Parrino, 3 years

July

PPO3 Lori Mayeux, 7 years

Promotion

Franklin Parrino was promoted to PPO 3 in June. He was also asked to serve on the FINS committee in Grant Parish.

Graduations



Sara Johnson, daughter of **PPO3 Lori Johnson-Mayeux**, graduated twice - from Buckeye High School, where she received her high school diploma, and also from Avoyelles Technical College, where she received her CNA certification.

Weddings Celebrated

Blake Desoto, son of PPS Donna Desoto, married the former **Kelly Groht** on June 29.



Cedric Conston, son of AC3 Cassandra Conston, married the former **Darrisha Morris** on July 13.

Birthdays

Transport Officer Vernell Jewell, June 18
PPO3 Robert Harris, June 21
PPO2 Todd Roszell, July 19

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Employee of the Month

Congratulations

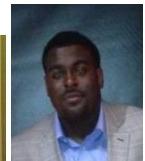
PPS Rickey Cannon was selected June Employee of the Month. Mr. Cannon is such a valued member of the Baton Rouge OJJ office. He is always prepared with a speech whenever we need one and will never turn us down when it comes to cooking for our various events. Mr. Cannon, we appreciate you and everything you do to make the Baton Rouge office better.

We See You and You're Looking Good

The Baton Rouge staff recently took turns going out to see the newly open facility, Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia. This facility visit was awesome! The composition of the campus makes for a smooth transition to and from all areas with constant close supervision from staff. The idea for the dorm names was very fitting to the environment as well. The dorms were neat and uniform; the patio sections were conducive to potential group sessions, or cool-down areas should any youth need alone time. The overall environment was very calming. The youth appeared to be enjoying themselves during a group session for which we happened to be present. The staff members were engaging with the youth and getting a lot of feedback during the discussions. We were each greeted with smiles and politeness from all the youth. We were all pleased to see other youth engaging in positive activities in their dorms and getting along well with each other. The grounds and dormitories were very impressive. The Officers were all extremely impressed with the new facility. So, this section of *The Scoop* is dedicated to the youth and staff at Columbia! *We see you and you are looking good!*

Happy Birthday

We recently celebrated quite a few birthdays: **PPO Courtney Dickerson, Administrative Assistant Irma Gonzales, T.O Gerard Landry, PPO Yolonda Latimer and RM Jacqueline Page.** Happy birthday, y'all, we are glad to have you on the team and we hope you enjoyed your day!



From left: Irma Gonzales, Jacqueline Page, Courtney Dickerson and Gerard Landry.

Bridge City Center for Youth

New Interim Director



Swanson **Deputy Director (Treatment)** **Nadira Ricks** has been named interim director at Bridge City.

Riverside Alternative HS has new SSP Director



Michelle Biagas is the new Regional Director of Special School Programs at Riverside Alternative School.

A New Orleans native, she has a diverse background, with her mother from Belize and her father American, which provides her with an appreciation for the uniqueness that individuals bring to relationships with their diverse personalities, and the importance of being exposed to an array of people, cultures and life experiences.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in political science from Loyola University of New Orleans, and, after completing an alternative certification program, she earned an M.Ed in Educational Administration from the University of New Orleans.

Ms. Biagas has worked for Boy's Town USA and Youth Alternatives, a group home for children on probation. She also taught English at a middle school filled with students in poverty who were at risk for dropping out. These students became her passion, as she felt a duty to ensure that the voices of these children were heard and that their needs were met. She felt that they, more than any others, needed resources and experiences that would

allow them to see the life they could have as an intelligent, academically well-versed member of society.

Ms. Biagas has also served as an instructional technology facilitator, literacy facilitator, staff developer, mentor and assessor, assistant principal, and SACS Team member. She has worked with budgets, trained teachers in technology, created curricula, certified schools for SACS accreditation and managed school site personnel.

Ms. Biagas went on to become the founding principal of the *Priestley School of Architecture and Construction*. While focusing on a mission of education and personal success for highly at-risk students, she built a high school that developed and implemented a new and highly specialized curriculum. She is in her 21st year as an educator and serves as the District Technology Facilitator for Special School Programs Central and North regions.

Central Office

We Said Farewell

Treatment Director Departs



We said goodbye to Facilities **Treatment Director Annette Arthur**, who recently left OJJ for a new opportunity at DHH. Annette has worked in Louisiana state corrections for 23 years, 7 of which were with OJJ. She played a key role in many aspects of our current treatment processes, as well as a pilot program currently underway.

"Although we're losing an outstanding staff member, we'd like to wish her the best in her new endeavor with the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health," said **Program Manager Gearry Williams**, her supervisor. "Thanks, Annette, for all you've done to help OJJ in meeting its mission!"

Another touching testimonial to Annette's dedication came from Swanson-Monroe Social Services Counselor **Dusty Teer**: "Annette, you will truly be missed here at OJJ. Even though you were housed at Central Office, you and your dedication to OJJ have definitely made a positive impact. I have gained so much knowledge just being able to work with you. Your dedication and commitment have not gone unnoticed. I wish the best in your new venture with the Department of Health and Hospitals. They have gained a wonderful, outstanding employee and you will be an asset to their agency. Thanks again for all your help through the years with SCY Monroe and with myself."

Ella Fairchild Retires



Education Coordinator Ella Fairchild retired after over 30 years in the field of education, mostly with special needs and at-risk children. She and her husband **Jimmy**, a retired EBR PPO, plan to enjoy life and do mission work. Pictured are **Director of Education Kim Mims**, left, and **Ella**, at a going-away celebration.

Not a Fish Tale (we've got the evidence)



Director of Education Kim Mims says, "We don't just do education, we reel in the big ones, too! **Title 1 Coordinator Ed Green** caught this 32 pounder at a fishing rodeo in Grand Isle. What a catch!"

Hammond Regional Office

Employee of the Month

Congratulations



PPO3 Christy Ford was named **May Employee of the Month**.



Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues was named Employee of the Month for June.

Congratulations

Weddings

Hammond OJJ had two weddings on the same day!

On June 1, **PPO2 Adam Nyquist** and his fiancée **Cynthia** were married in New Orleans.

Also on that day, **PPO3 Mark Benton** and his fiancée **Courtney** were married in Ponchatoula.

Congratulations to both couples!

Graduation Celebrated



Congratulations to **Transport Officer Anthony Percell** who graduated from LSU with a degree in Inter-Disciplinary Studies.

Baby Girl Welcomed



Hammond OJJ held a baby shower for **PPO3 Tiffany James** in May. Tiffany and her husband **Rusty** welcomed **Lainey Rae** into the world on June 15.

Supporting Our Troops



PPO3 Kasey Wall's husband, Victor, left, is currently on a 10 month deployment to Afghanistan, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Victor is in the 1084th Transportation Company from Reserve, Louisiana.



Victor in Afghanistan.

Recently, Hammond OJJ pitched in and created several care packages to send to Victor and his unit. The packages included shaving cream, razors, popcorn, beef jerky, M&Ms, dried fruit, tooth brushes, medication, candy, LSU flags, and more! Along with the care packages, cards were sent for the 1084th Transportation Company. The cards were made by youth from Hammond City Court's Drug Court Program and youth attending Hammond City Court's FINS Camp this summer.



Above, cards for the troops, and below, the care packages sent to the troops in Afghanistan.



RM Sue Larisey said, "For July 4th we had the drug court youth do a restorative justice project as they made cards for one of our own. **PPO Kasey Wall's** husband is serving in Afghanistan. Recently, one of the men in his unit (whom he had trained) was killed in action. He was from the Hammond area. We tried to lift Victor's spirits by sending the cards and care boxes full of goodies. Kasey tells us how excited he was about the goodies, and of course he shared with his unit. It was a great July 4th gift to our men in service!"

On May 26, **SPC Chris Drake**, 20, a native of Tickfaw, Louisiana, was killed in action. SPC Drake was a member of the 1084th

Transportation Company, 165th Combat Support Battalion, 139th Regional Support Group. He had been trained by Victor Wall. At the time of his death, he had only been deployed for about 6 weeks. **PPO Kasey Wall, PPO Danielle August, PPO Sarah Gilberti** and **PPS Dawnita Hodge** attended the homecoming of SPC Drake's body. He was flown in the Hammond Regional Airport on June 4.

There was a procession along Highway 190 to the funeral home in Denham Springs. The Patriot Guard escorted the fallen service member, and the streets were lined with people paying their respects to the fallen hero.



Pictured at the procession are from left, PPO2 Sarah Gilberti, PPO3 Kasey Wall, PPS Dawnita Hodge and PPO3 Danielle August.

Youth Graduation Ceremonies

In June, **PPO3 Wendy Clark** and **PPO2 Denise Wall** attended the graduation ceremony at Bridge City Center for Youth, and **PPO2 Robert Penn** and **PPO2 Denise Wall** attended the graduation ceremony at Jetson Center for Youth.

Program for Change

PPO3 Jamie Oertel attended Renaissance Home's Program for Change in May. The program was about motivating youth to change for the better. Jamie said the youth put on great performances, singing and dancing.

What's Going On

From PPO Tiffany James' caseload:

A youth graduated from the Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard in June.

From PPO Leigh Calmes' caseload:

Youth A.T. obtained his GED and began school at Vo Tech. **Youth B.M.** graduated from the Youth Challenge Program in June, and obtained his GED.

From PPO Robert Penn's caseload:

Youth C.W. obtained his GED.

From PPO Amy Johnson's caseload:

Youth K.P. was released from the Ware Intensive Girls program in March, where she did very well overall and earned an early release. K.P. turned 16 in May, which allowed her to enroll in adult education classes. She took the qualifier test and was scheduled to take the GED. In June, K.P. received her GED diploma and had wonderful scores in all areas. She is now working on enrolling in Baton Rouge Community College for the semester starting in August.

Youth C.H. obtained his high school diploma in May and has signed to play baseball with Baton Rouge Community College. He will begin practicing with the team soon and will start his first semester in August.

From PPO Penny Buniff's caseload:

Youth C.W. was placed as a Junior Assistant Hospitality Chair at a dog show. He used his work and organizational skills to achieve the goals of his duties each day, which included setting up seven rings in the morning and setting up refreshments for the judges and stewards. He made sure the judges and stewards had what they needed throughout the day, either by doing it himself, or communicating and organizing with one of the officers to complete the job or request. C.W. had to communicate and coordinate with the cleanup crew as well. In the evening, his job was to make sure everything was

removed from the rings and placed in storage. By taking care of these responsibilities, he freed up time for the adult officers to take care of other matters. **Congratulations to C.W.** for showing us all what can be accomplished when you are responsible and work hard!

From PPO Denise Wall's caseload:

Youth J.D. graduated as valedictorian at Bridge City Center for Youth in June. **He took the ACT and scored an impressive 27!**

Youth K.L. graduated as salutatorian at Jetson Center for Youth in June. **Congratulations!**

Jetson Center for Youth

Graduation Ceremony Fetes 17 Grads

Scenic Alternative High School held its annual commencement ceremony, recognizing the accomplishments of 17 graduates, 11 of whom were honor graduates, on June 21.

The keynote speaker for the occasion was **Mr. Zach Strief**, Right Tackle for the New Orleans Saints. Mr. Strief explained the importance of overcoming obstacles in life to the graduates and informed them that this was only the beginning. He encouraged the SAHS graduates, telling them that their education would put them in an elite class.



A grad displays his class ring.

During the ceremony, two very distinctive awards were presented to the Class Valedictorian and the Salutatorian, the Ernest Gaines Award and the Principal's Award.

The Ernest Gaines Award acknowledges the graduate with the highest accumulative score on the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education).

A special thanks to the OJJ staff who assisted in issuing the diplomas to our graduates: **Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton, Regional Director Johnny Qualls, Director of Education Kim Mims, Deputy Director Ashley Taflinger and Assistant Director Fouad Harb.** We take pride in placing our youth on the right track to achieve their goals and it's most rewarding when they take pride in achieving them.



The graduates

We would like to say congratulations to the SAHS graduates – Class of 2013, **Jacobi S. – Valedictorian, Kyle L. – Salutatorian, Aaron B., Ranell B., Wesley B., Donald C., Steven C., Joael F., Derrick H., Kenneth J., Thomas L., Austin M., John M., Wesley P., Kristian R., Kyle R. and Jonathan S.**



Graduates present roses to Deputy Director Ashley Taflinger.

The following story and OJJ photos were published in The Saints' newsletter:

Zach Strief Addresses Graduates of Scenic Alternative High School

Saints Tackle spoke as the school's commencement speaker.



New Orleans Saints tackle Zach Strief addressed the graduating class at Scenic Alternative High School in Baton Rouge, La. on Friday as the commencement speaker for the school's recognition ceremony.

Strief was joined by numerous state and school officials including the assistant secretary at the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) Sean Hamilton, the regional director central/southwestern service area Johnny Qualls, director of education (OJJ) Kim Mims, facility deputy director Ashley Taflinger, facility assistant director Fouad Harb, as well as principal Ronnie Knox (OJJ).



The school, run by the Office of Juvenile Justice, enrolls over 80 students with the graduating class of 2013 totaling 17 students. The students and their families, as well as guests and faculty, were hosted in the dining hall for the ceremony.

"The diplomas you have received are not only an expression of your hard work, but an expression of your willingness to work," said Strief. "But you have not finished learning and growing. You have just been given the tools to continue to learn and grow, and with that you are going to be as great as you want yourself to be."

Strief went on to discuss the importance of overcoming adversity and of genuine effort in everything that someone does, even if quitting was the easiest route to take.

"You guys didn't quit, you finished. And now you are holding the fruits of that effort," said Strief. "This is going to happen many more times in your life; someone will give you an opportunity to achieve something and you will need to choose if you are going to see it through and finish or if you are going to quit."

In closing, Strief stressed the importance of taking what the students had learned and furthering their education in the classroom or in the community, adding that continued work in whatever the students would pursue would lead to further achievements.

"This is a time for reflection, not only of what you have achieved but for what you can and will achieve," said Strief. "A graduation is not an ending, a graduation is a beginning. This is not your last achievement, it will be the first of many."

The Celebration Continues

Jetson staff held a GED celebration crawfish boil in June. A big thanks to **Group Leader Micon Gaines** for organizing the event to honor our graduates.



Left, enjoying the crawfish, below. Below, saying the blessing over the feast.



The youth from Sunrise Dorm had a good time on the holiday weekend, from what I heard. They enjoyed good food and fun at a Fun Day. They even had water balloons and two slip and slides! How about that for an incentive! It's so encouraging when kids, especially in this setting, are allowed to just be kids. I say that because a lot of youth who end up with us have been forced to grow up much too fast, even before they come into the system. So, when staff cares enough about them to organize an event that allows them to just have fun, even if their behavior may have been less than perfect, it says a lot about a person. Big thanks to **Shera Knighten** and your team for going the extra mile!

Mirror Image Choir Visits Jetson

The **Mirror Image Prison Ministry Tour 2013** made a stop at Jetson in June. **Mirror Image** is the high school senior youth choir from First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. The choir ministers and sings in juvenile detention centers and correctional facilities. Mirror Image recently sang in juvenile facilities in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



A Note from Director Angela Sutton:

I want to send out a huge congratulations to **Ms. Rosena Abdul-Aziz, Case Manager**. She earned a Masters in Social Work (MSW) from Southern University. This is a huge accomplishment and we are proud of you, Rosena. She was recently honored as Case Manager of the Year at the Correctional Employees Week celebration, which was well deserved. Jetson is lucky to have an employee who strives for excellence.

Mirror Image sings the songs of today's popular artists. An exciting dimension of the presentation was the live band that accompanies the choir. Each song was choreographed and presented on portable platform risers brought by the choir. The songs were followed by an encouraging word from the pastor, after the musical **"When Mercy Found Me."** The young people of Mirror Image pay their own way to participate in this ministry and there is no expense to the host facility.

Youth Tour and Present at SU Ag Center

Two Jetson youth toured Southern University's Agriculture Center and presented information on their horticulture class and their experience at Jetson at the recent Youth Expo. They also performed the stomp (something they learned in Sunset dormitory).

Youth Greg J. and Donnell B. presented a PowerPoint presentation to a crowd of approximately 30 people at the Youth Expo. Southern University's **Project Manager Christie Monroe** and **Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood** assisted the youth with the presentation and the question and answer session that followed. Stephanie Elwood then escorted the youth around the agriculture center for a tour of the research center.

Closing the presentation was a performance of "the Stomp" by the youth. The crowd at the Youth Expo begged and pleaded for the two youth to perform. The crowd was very impressed by the performance.

Accompanying the youth were **Deputy Director Ashley Taflinger**, **Group Leader Micon Gaines** and **Horticulture Instructor Michele Sandifer**.

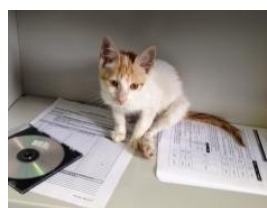
Below, presenting a PowerPoint and right, performing The Stomp.



Youth Rescue Homeless Kitty

Homeless felines know where to go to find a good home. A few weeks ago, Jetson made a new friend – an orange and white kitten the youth named **Sprocket**.

"The boys found Sprocket outside of visitation, at the Lilac building," said **Deputy Director Ashley Taflinger**. "The kitty actually ran into the visitation room. So the boys brought her to Area 3 over the weekend and I took her back up to Area 1 on Monday because I didn't want her (him?) to be hurt. And she made her way over to the trade building by Tuesday morning."



"The boys adopted Sprocket for a short while, but were unable to keep him," said **Horticulture Instructor Michele Sandifer**.

"He was well cared-for at the trade building for a couple of weeks. He could be called the sweetest and friendliest kitten ever."



"He made a new home in the trade building where **Mr. Ronnie Frioux**, the auto mechanics teacher, **Mr. Samuel Butler**, the C-tech teacher, and **Ms. Sandifer** (pictured left with Sprocket) took great care of her," Ashley said. "She followed everyone around, loved attention and loved to snuggle. The boys really became attached to her as well."



Director Taflinger took Sprocket to a new, forever home (left), since she couldn't stay on campus. "Many at Jetson were sad to see Sprocket go, but wish him well at his new home," said Michelle. "We will be looking forward to hearing from his new owner about how Sprocket is growing into a fine and handsome cat."

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Training Events Attended

PPOs Justin Beasley, Cassandra Brown, Jeffry Edwards, Wanda Sylvester, Claude Devillier and Wanda Ventress participated in the Crisis Intervention Training hosted by Magellan in June at the Opelousas Civic Center.

PPO Jeffry Edwards recently completed two-week National Guard training. PPO Edwards spent his weekdays at the National Guard Armories in Lafayette and Lake Charles and he spent one weekend at Camp Shelby in Mississippi. The Lafayette Region thanks PPO Edwards for his service to our country.

Success Stories from PPO Cassandra Brown's Caseload

PPO Cassandra Brown's client, Caleb T., received his GED at the Evangeline Parish Adult Education Center. Caleb plans to attend college and major in Computer Engineering.

Tylan B., a former St. Mary Parish client of **PPO Cassandra Brown**, entered the Air Force in January 2012. On April 26, 2013, Tylan graduated from Basic Training, 331st TRS Flight 295 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. On July 8, 2013, Tylan graduated from Tech School, of the 363rd TRS at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX, at the top of his class as a distinguished graduate, as an Aircraft Armament Systems Specialist.

Joshua G. was placed on OJJ probation supervision in May 2012. He was residing with family members because his parents did not trust him. Joshua was hanging out with negative peers, had no future goals, and had little motivation to do anything except smoke marijuana and hang out. In addition, Joshua did not have any interest in school.

In August 2012, Joshua went to inpatient substance abuse treatment and successfully completed the program. Upon release from treatment, Joshua went to live with his mother. He enrolled in the GED Options Program at his local high school.

Joshua was referred to GLOVE, Inc., an intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment program. He successfully completed the program, and remained drug-free throughout his probation. Joshua was referred to Phoenix MST Therapy Family Counseling. Joshua's father lived nearby and participated in the family sessions. Last October, Joshua's father passed away, and Joshua received grief counseling.

Throughout Joshua's probation, he made tremendous progress in building a positive relationship with his parents and brother. In March, Joshua took the GED test, but failed mathematics.

In April he took the mathematics retest and passed. In May, Joshua graduated and received his GED diploma from his high school. Joshua

is currently seeking employment and plans to attend college at LSU-Eunice. *Joshua is pictured above with PPO Brown.*



July in the town of Zachary, LA, East Baton Rouge Parish.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Lake Charles OJJ staff assembled for a group photo after attending an in-service. Sitting: **PPOs Jeff Haley, Angie Stevens and D.C.** Front row, standing: **PPO Monet Newman.** Back row: **PPS Ken Vidrine, PPO Alexis Heflin, PPO S.K., PPS Melissa Cross, Program Specialist Karli Pullard and Administrative Coordinator Erline Pierce.**



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Erica Purkey**, daughter of **PPO Rebecca Harmon and husband Corey**, who graduated from Westlake High School in May. Erica said a beautiful prayer from the stage, pictured below, before her classmates and graduation ceremony guests.



PPO Ronald Gilchrist was complimented by a judge in a Jefferson Davis Parish court. Ronald was asked to retain supervision of a youth who was being considered for transfer outside of our region, but within a reasonable driving distance. The court expressed confidence in Ronald, due to his extensive knowledge and willingness to supervise the youth, whatever it takes. **Good job, Ronald!**



Congratulations to **Elaina Newman**, daughter of **PPO Monet Newman and husband Kelly**, who recently graduated from her pre-K program. Elaina is ready for kindergarten in August.

What's Going On

MST Director Monique Little and the Phoenix team recently came to present MST & Homebuilders to educate our staff on services they have available to our clients. It was one of the best in-services ever! We were very impressed with the level of professionalism demonstrated by this group.



*Pictured above and below, **PPO Monet Newman (center), Program Specialist Karli Pullard (right), and another probation officer** were "runway models" for our Phoenix keepsake totes!*



PPO Fred Fontenot shared that he has figured out how to use technology to maximize his efficiency! He is happy to save time and energy and effort, while managing to capture detail.

Our Office of Risk Management liaison, **PPO Jeff Haley**, had weekly ORM sessions with central office **Safety Director Debbie Linder** of Central Office to organize and improve our safety records. We always seek ways to be better. Jeff also presented another safety topic to keep us in training compliance.

Five OJJ representatives attended Beauregard Parish's June Planning Board meeting, including **PPS Melissa Cross** and **PPO Monet Newman**, to discuss Beauregard's plan to open an Evening Reporting Center, a "one stop shop" type of facility. OJJ has a representative on the planning board, and the parish has already selected a location. We are encouraged.

Going the Extra Mile

PPO Fred Fontenot took **Youth Clifford J.** to lunch as a result of his progress at Boys Village. Fred is not assigned to supervise this case but has built a relationship with him through numerous basketball games with the youth. Fred told Clifford that he would reward him if he made 700 points. He got 698 and Fred thought that deserved some recognition. Clifford tried really hard. Fred is a motivator!

PPOs Fred Fontenot and **Ronald Gilchrist** are consistently thoughtful of Boys Village residents. They play basketball with them often, and consider the boys when there are extra goodies and food items. They do numerous (unannounced) acts of kindness and spend more than the required time with those boys. They do so WITHOUT ADVERTISEMENT, and they do not seek credit. It is genuine, quality time.

PPO Monet Newman advocated for youth **Roderick M.**, to keep him from being

expelled from public school. He was allowed to take the LEAP test to further his educational goals and communicate importance of educational value. He was still placed in school detention, but was given a modified expulsion that still allowed him to test.

PPO Monet Newman advocated for **Youth Amorian H.** to have a court hearing despite several cancellations by the judge. Monet presented positively and the judge agreed to release the youth from custody in June.

Thank you to **PPO Monet Newman**, who was the sole OJJ representative at the June WTF meeting. She was our only core team member there. Without her, the meeting would have been canceled. Thanks, Monet, we appreciate your dependability.

Youth, Edward N. completed the Youth Challenge Program as a high school graduate. He is now 17 and is a success story. His assigned probation officer has supervised him for many years and is very proud of his accomplishments and the young man he has become.

Administrative Coordinator Erline Pierce has been learning many new duties. She recently attended CPR Training with **Transport Officer Ronald "Dusty" Rhodes**. Erline also attended ISIS/AGPS/Expense Coding Training in Baton Rouge, accompanied by **PPS Melissa Cross**. We have to keep learning and expanding and growing—"The only constant is: CHANGE."

PPOs Angie Stevens, Hollie Comeaux, Ronald Gilchrist, Jeff Haley, and Money Newman, and **PPSs Ken Vidrine and Melissa Cross** attended the Calcasieu Parish Juvenile Probation Office/Office of Juvenile Justice Services' annual barbecue lunch to celebrate the end of school. All juvenile justice agencies, Calcasieu Parish school board professionals, and staff from family and youth-serving agencies attend this luncheon collaborate and visit. We had a very nice

time and our PPOs received many compliments. It's so nice to know that our staff enjoy good work reputations.

Thanks to Our Neighbor, Lafayette OJJ

Thank you to **Lafayette OJJ**! You are our closest, neighboring office and you have been most helpful! Thank you to **Regional Manager Michelle Thomas** for delegating and seeking people to assist us when asked. Thank you to **PPS Tracy Flores** and **PPO Justin Beasley**, who answered phones in July while we had distinguished guests in our office. Thank you to **PPO/CPR Instructor Kristi Credeur** who (at the last minute) was asked to conduct an already-scheduled CPR training session. She stepped up in the absence of our instructor in May, and we are most grateful! Thank you to **PPO Steve Neef**, who answered the LC OJJ phones, to allow our office to attend the funeral of a Lake Charles OJJ family member.

Monroe Regional Office

Random Acts of Kindness

This spring, all of the staff at Monroe OJJ drew the name of a coworker and performed random acts of kindness for them. This included small gifts, such as gift cards to local restaurants, flowers, snacks and thank you cards. At the June staff meeting, we had fun guessing our "secret office buddies" before the big reveal. **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom** would like to designate **PPO3 Joel McNair** as the *Official Monroe OJJ Ninja* for his stealth in leaving chocolate on her desk undetected.

We would like to recognize the efforts of **PPO3 Mark Miller** for going above and beyond to help a family in need. Mark supervises a youth whose family relocated in the community a few weeks ago. Mark received a phone call from the youth's counselor, saying that the family did not have any mattresses in their home. Mark, in turn,

contacted his wife's church, First United Methodist Church of Monroe, which purchased three sets of mattresses and box springs for the family. Mark and **PPO Jeremy Keyes** assisted in delivering the mattresses.

Youth Accomplishments

PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom's youth, Antonio K. earned his GED on his final day of placement at Johnny Robinson's Boys Home.

Dontae M., a youth on **PPO3 Patrick Cooper's** caseload, graduated from high school after successfully completing summer school. He plans to enter the armed forces. Due to his hard work and commitment, he was also released from supervised probation one month early.

Training Events

PPO3s Jackie Kindrix, Gary Hunter and Mark Miller and **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom** completed the POST requalification course in June. **PPS Karl Wallace**, pictured right, shot a perfect score on the course. None of the officers present at the range or our POST firearms instructor, **PPS Jennifer Perkins Bible**, observed any cheating from Karl on that date, which was a pleasant surprise!



Our PPCT Instructors, **PPO3s Gary Hunter and Patrick Cooper**, conducted recertification in June for our office. We would like to thank them for the hard work they put into our trainings, which are always energetic and informative. Below are some "live action" shots!



Participating in PPCT training, above, PPO3s Willie Hunter and Gregory Colvin. Below, PPS Orlando Davis and PPO3 Reginald Chaptman.



Congratulations

Monroe OJJ would like to offer congratulations on some upcoming bundles of joy!

PPO3s Jeremy and Cheryl Keyes are expecting their second child in January 2014. They are also the parents of **Abigail**, who was 10 months old in July. We hope Jeremy will be able to utilize his recently acquired pacifier mastery skills for the new baby!

PPO3 Jeremy Fox and his wife, Crystal are expecting their second child in February 2014. Their **daughter, Macie**, is 28 months old.

We anticipate that these officers will finally get some sleep around 2020!

Summer Vacation at Gettysburg

PPO3 Mark Miller recently participated in the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, portraying a Union soldier at the national reenactment, and attending National Park events. He joined over 10,000 other Civil War re-enactors from across the world as they relived the epic three-day battle, which involved 165,620 soldiers, resulted in 51,112 casualties, and has become known as one of the most significant engagements of the war.

During the event, Mark fought as a private in the 7th Wisconsin "Iron Brigade", as he re-enacted the battles of Culp's Hill, Peach Orchard, Little Roundtop, and the most famous of the battle's engagements - Pickett's Charge. The event was full of excitement and thrills. Mark said, "During some points of the re-enactment, the gunfire was so loud and the smoke so thick, it was hard to differentiate between friend and foe. The sounds of drums beating and officers shouting orders filled the air as both sides became heavily engaged."

Mark has participated in Civil War re-enactments for 13 years, portraying both Union and Confederate soldiers. So far, during the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015), Mark has participated in five anniversary re-enactments, including the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the Battle of Shiloh, the Battle of Raymond and the Siege of Vicksburg, the Battle/Siege of Port Hudson and the Battle of Gettysburg.

He has often been joined by his wife and family, and Mark hopes to participate in several more engagements. Being part of the 150th Commemoration of Gettysburg, however, was very special to him, since it was one of the most pivotal and among the bloodiest battles of the war - and of our nation's history.

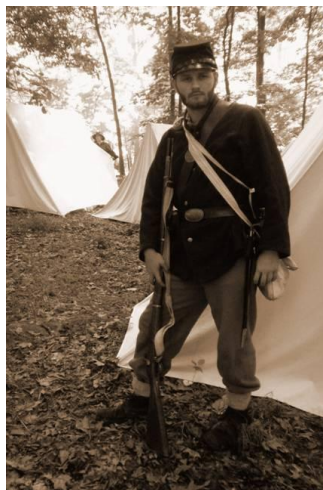
Below are some of PPO Mark Miller's pictures from his Gettysburg re-enactment experience.



PPO Mark Miller, left, and his brother, Luke Miller, pictured in a "daguerrotype." The daguerrotype process, developed in 1839 by the French Academy of Sciences, ushered in the birth of modern photography and was utilized frequently during the Civil War era.



Mark prepares for a day of "camp life" at Gettysburg with breakfast.



PPO Mark Miller, preparing to participate in the re-enactment of Pickett's Charge.

Natchitoches Regional Office

PPOs Deanna Williams, Ashley Meacham and Christopher Johnson attended the Special Olympics in honor of Red River Parish, held on the Northwestern State University campus. They were joined by staff from the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, Natchitoches City Police Department and the Natchitoches Parish School Board.



Above and below, Special Olympics events.



PPO3 Heather Christophe attended an Author's Tea at the Northwestern State University Elementary School Lab. For this program, each child in grades K-5 wrote a book about their life and they shared them with family and friends. Heather joined her nieces and nephew as they shared their books.



New Orleans Metro Regional Office

Employee of the Month



PPO3 Daria Melder was chosen **May Employee of the Month**. Aside from covering all of her required duties as a PPO, Ms. Melder has also consistently volunteered to assist her co workers with

assignments over the past year and is always willing to give a helping hand around the office. She is well respected by the judges to whose court she is assigned, and always goes the extra mile when working with the youth under her supervision.



We all acknowledge that achievements are special and must get due recognition and appreciation. With that being said, congratulations to **PPO3 Dorothy Crump** for being named June Employee of the

Month. Dorothy's performance demonstrates her hard work, sincerity and diligence to the youth in the Metro Region.

Congratulations

PPO3 Douglas Black received his Bachelor's of Arts degree from Southern University of New Orleans at the recent commencement exercise. Doug majored in sociology and minored in criminal justice. He is currently working on his Master's in criminal justice. Congratulations, Doug!

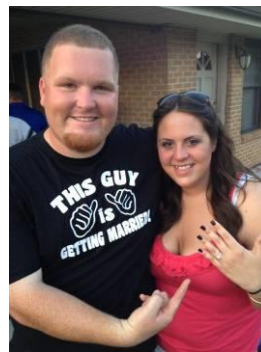
You are an Inspiration!



We would like to take time to recognize **Program Specialist Paulette Carter**, who participated in the Biggest Loser Challenge at Greater St.

Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church. You are an inspiration to us all. Congratulations!

More Congratulations



Administrative Assistant Karen Ragan shares the news of her daughter's engagement announcement. **Holli Ragan** and **Chaz McGee** recently became engaged. Holli was also recently accepted into the radiology tech program at Delgado

College. A heartfelt congratulations goes out the couple from New Orleans-Metro OJJ.



New Orleans in July: Tourists mingle in front of Jackson Square, where the New Orleans skyline rises behind the St. Louis Cathedral, the Cabildo and the Presbytere (foreground) and the Pontalba Building (center rear).

Shreveport Regional Office

Employees of the Month

Congratulations

PPO3 Brandy Stratton was chosen **June Employee of the Month**.

Employee of the Month for July was **PPO3 Jennifer Dingler**.

PO1 Jacquelle Jackson and **her husband Clark** welcomed their beautiful baby girl, **Brooklyn Rose Jackson**, on July 7.

Staffings and Training Attended

Shreveport OJJ attended the Swanson staffing in Monroe in June and July.

The whole office participated in JIDS/ICJ training in June.

Happy Birthday

In June celebrated the birthdays of **PPO3 Kristen McKee** and **PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson**.

In July we said happy birthday to **PPO1 Charles Davis** and **PPS Steve Martino**.



Sunset in Key West, Florida

Swanson Centers for Youth - Monroe & Columbia

Three youth from Swanson Centers for Youth recently participated in NFL New York Giant football player **Reuben Randall's** one-day learning camp at Bastrop High School in Bastrop. The free camp was open to youth through the age of 18.

Fortunately, we had three youth with the physical attributes, good behavior and attitudes that we thought would greatly benefit from the camp. These youth had participated on our spring track team and placed in several races and events.

It was quite an adventure for **Director Vickie Shoecraft**, who is of course guardian of all, to register the youth online as anonymously as possible, but still with an ounce of recognition. And it was even more adventuresome for **Deputy Director Germaine Simon** to check everyone in on the morning of the camp, not knowing those creative handles. But Deputy Director Simon was a quick thinker and he just inquired by the youths' mothers/guardians name and was quickly able to get everyone checked in for a very active day.



Youth Tyler T. with NFL football player Rueben Randall. Tyler was released soon after this event.

There were, of course, a number of staff as well as the youth there, and as always at our events, the staff well outnumbered the youth, ostensibly to supervise, but we know it's also that proud parenting that kicks in for the staff to go and watch the youth play.

JJS Mitch Williams, whose nephew happens to be Reuben Randall, was there with his look-alike and moreover sound-alike brother, and they magically helped our youth to get some footballs autographed.

Director Shoecraft had provided the footballs to take to the event, so they could be autographed and given to the youth as souvenirs when they are released, to give them a good memory of this time spent with OJJ.

And of course we took pictures. Thank goodness for I-phones, as no one remembered to bring a camera. So, look at us and our youth with the football stars, not only from the NFL, but also from LSU. Just maybe these pictures will be of value one day. They are already valuable to all of us who were there.



Top left, the field and stadium. Top left, DD Germaine Simon shaking hands with Rueben Randle. Left, JJS5 Mitchell Williams, uncle of Rueben Randle, NFL Giants receiver and SCYM overnight shift supervisor and his nephew Rueben Randal, the NFL football player sponsoring the camp.

Coach Massey Goes to National Junior Olympics

JJS4 Detrick "Coach DeeDee" Massey took eight youth that she coaches through her non-profit organization, the S.O.Y. Project (Saving Our Youth) to the AAU National Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina. The Junior Olympics brings together several thousand children aged 6 to 18, from around the country to compete in the pinnacle competition held annually by the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union. "All of the children ran and jumped their best personal record," DeeDee said.

Chaplain James Attends Convention

Chaplain Rev. Rickey L. James and his family volunteered to learn how to better help the youth of SCYM and SCYC while in St Louis, MO, and made it a vacation! They attended the annual National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, held at the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri.



Rev. James and his wife, Linda, who volunteers at Swanson, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Chaplain James, his wife Linda, and their daughter, LaShonda Reese attended the Congress, as well as **JJS6 Vernon Foy and his family**.

This year, over 30,000 people attended the convention. The National Baptist Congress features a week-long series of lectures,

meetings and sessions. The congress provides learning opportunities for pastors, teachers and students.

Chaplain James attended a class entitled "Disciplining the Youth." The class discussed issues involving understanding the youth and the environment from which they come, and how to deal with them. This class also discussed understanding youths' behavior.

LaShonda Reese attended a class entitled "Arranging and Scoring for Unique Needs." Attending such a training showed how we can arrange and score various musical selections for different audiences. This was very helpful and insightful, as LaShonda provides music during many assemblies at Swanson.

"After attending such a training, we've returned with fresh visions and recharged batteries so that we can continue to help inspire, encourage and lead our youth into becoming the best, law-abiding citizens," said Rev. James. "Of course we had to stop at the infamous "Sweetie Pies" after a long day of lectures and discussions. Sweetie Pies was good for the soul!"

Rev. James visits "Sweetie Pies" in St. Louis.



Swanson Facilities Celebrated Big on July 4th

This year's Fourth of July holiday was a day for a feast for the youth, with all the traditional barbeque cookout foods at Swanson-Monroe and Swanson-Columbia.

But to also show appreciation for the staff, **Director Vickie Shoecraft** and the Employee Committee helped to get everyone started in

the cook-out mood with a pre-holiday lunch meal on July 3rd featuring chopped brisket sandwiches with potato salad and baked beans.

After that tasty meal in Monroe, **Regional Director Carolyn Lewis** and **Director Shoecraft** headed down the road to Columbia to see what **Deputy Director Kim Rushing** had cooked up for the youth.

These pictures, below, will tell you what we found and just had to get a taste of ourselves. As you can see, the Slip N Slide was a big hit with both youth and staff.





Tallulah Regional Office

Training Attended

OJJ Tallulah has been busy keeping up current training requirements. OJJ policy reviews were completed as required. Officers completed firearms recertification at the range. Also, officers and staff completed CPR and first aid training.

PPOs Kim Green and Jessica Southern attended SAVRY training held in Lafayette.

PPO Terri Berry attended the Domestic Violence Training held at the Oak Grove Fire Department.

PPOs Kim Green and Robert Johnson attended job career fair recently held at the Madison Parish Middle School.

We Said Farewell and Best Wishes

OJJ Tallulah recently bid farewell to one of our officers. **PPO Fred Laing** has retired and is now going to enjoy the "good life."

Co-workers from Tallulah treated him to a retirement party with good food and fellowship. Everyone enjoyed a meal of pork loin, chicken and beef enchiladas, jambalaya, corn casserole, green salad, green bean casserole, crowder peas, cornbread, sweet potatoes, baked beans, potato salad, rolls and a chocolate pecan sheet cake. Guests included **Fred's wife, Linda, daughter Jennifer, stepdaughter Dee and her son Remington.** Fred's good friend **Ben Waites**, along with Ben's mother **Sonya**, were also present.



*Retiree
Fred Laing,
right, with
friend Ben
Waites.*



PPO LaJuana Harrell presents Fred Laing a keepsake box containing an American flag and badges from his many years in law enforcement.

After the meal, Fred was presented with cards, gifts and well wishes. Fred was also presented by his co-workers a lovely keepsake box put together by **PPO LaJuana Harrell**. The box included the U.S. flag and all the badges from his years of law enforcement.

OJJ Tallulah will miss Fred, and we wish him the very best in his retirement.

Congratulations



OJJ Tallulah would like to extend congratulations to **PPO Terri Berry** on the recent marriage of her daughter. **Taylor Berry** and **Hunter Ross** exchanged marriage vows June 22nd at the Cottonland Museum in Lake Providence, LA. **Taylor** is the daughter of **Terri Berry** and **Dennis Berry** and **Hunter** is the son of **Joe** and **Evelyn Ross**.

Best wishes to the new couple as they start their new life together.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Employees of the Month

Congratulations

PPO3 Rachel Loupe was chosen **June Employee of the Month**.

PPO3 Summer Ferreira was the **July Employee of the Month**.

They are both valuable assets to our team here in Thibodaux.

Continuing to live out the Vision and Mission....

PPO3 Summer Ferreira would like to thank those who donated funds or food for **Youth Sierra G.** in her time of need.

A huge thanks goes out to **PPO3s Eddie Fannin** and **James Percle**, both Certified NRA Firearms Instructors, for conducting our annual firearms classroom and range training. Eddie and James are constantly adding more up-to-date information each year to our curriculum for officers' safety, which is paramount to our everyday job duties. Thanks, y'all, for a great training.

Another huge thanks goes out to **PPO3 Jamie Hebert**, American Heart Association Certified Instructor, for certifying the Thibodaux Region in First Aid and CPR. This was her first time leading the course and she did a fantastic job.



PPO Keith Kotoski volunteers in using a replica of an AED device.

The AED is an Automated External Defibrillator. This is a portable electronic device that diagnoses life threatening heart arrhythmia and treats patients by electrical therapy that allows the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. AEDs are simple to use for the layman, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, first responder and basic life support courses.

Another story about our wonderful local creatures in Cajun Country....



We found three baby armadillos burrowing near the maintenance storage shed in back of the Thibodaux Office. We named them,

High, Moderate and Low. They are so ugly, they are cute...They did not care that their picture was being taken. They were just zoned in on burrowing in the dirt.



From left, "High" near the wooden post, "Moderate", and "Low" trying to hide underneath shed.

Guess what? We had yet another visitor who came to see us at Thibodaux OJJ Office...Foghorn Leghorn! Shortly after posing for these few pictures he went to visit our next door neighbors. Handsome guy!





Speaking of handsome beasts, the bison (buffalo) above reside in a pasture a stone's throw from Bridge City Center for Youth.

This creature resides near the State Police Training Facility on River Road north of Jetson Center for Youth. Along with another of its kind, it comes out



most evenings to graze in a pasture and amaze visitors. Sheep? Goat? Tibetan yak? If anyone can identify this fine fellow, please contact your editor at jerel.giarrusso@la.gov



BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations



Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC Recipe of the Month

It's been kind of quiet in Culinary Arts since the big graduation ceremony here at BCCY. We just had a big week, preparing lots of good food to help celebrate the Probation and Parole Recognition events at several offices in our area. The students traveled to the Hammond, Thibodaux and New Orleans offices to serve the guests and we sent the prepared food items to the Baton Rouge office. This was a great experience for the students to get a firsthand look at the catering business.

In June I tested 10 students for their National Certification in ServSafe procedures. This is a 5 year certificate in the art of handling food safely. It is the only approved training and testing program that is required and recognized by the Louisiana Legislature. Of the 10 students tested, seven were certified.



The seven students who passed the ServSafe test in June, are from left: Lamont R., Taylor F., Kendrick W., Shlomo S., Rondell S., Sean S. and Tristan P.

This year on Earth Day we celebrated with the students on campus. After they had completed a project, they all came to Culinary Arts for a smoothie. I have been asked to put the recipe in *The Inside Scoop* - it is very simple to do, so try it out and see how you like it.

The other recipe is a truly great suggestion for breakfast for special company, or just to show the family how much you really love them. And yes, you can even do this, prepare the night before for a wonderful treat!



Strawberry-Banana Smoothie



Serves 2

2 medium bananas

1 pint fresh strawberries, washed and quartered

1 cup yogurt

1/4 cup orange juice

crushed ice, optional

Place all ingredients in blender. Process until smooth.

Blackberry French Toast



Serves 8

1 cup blackberry jam (you can substitute strawberry jam or seedless raspberry jam, if preferred)

1 12-oz. loaf French bread, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes, divided

1 8-oz. container of cream cheese, cut into 1 inch cubes

4 large eggs

3/4 cup brown sugar, divided

1 tsp. vanilla

1 tsp. cinnamon

2 cups half-and-half

syrup or whipped cream for topping

Cook jam over medium heat 1 to 2 minutes or until melted and smooth, stirring once. Place half of the bread cubes in bottom of a lightly greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Top with cream cheese cubes and drizzle with melted jam. Top with remaining bread cubes.

Whisk together eggs, 1/2 cup brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and half-and-half. Pour over bread mixture. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup brown sugar.

Cover and refrigerate for 8 to 24 hours. Bake in preheated 325 degree oven, covered, for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for 10 to 15 minutes. Serve with syrup or whipped cream.

Have a great month and remember if you have any requests for recipes or food questions, please let me know at ronald.sonnier@la.gov

C'EST SI BON!

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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